

**Amendments to the Specification**

*Please replace paragraph [00012] of the specification with the following paragraph:*

[00012] The compounds to be carboxylated are aldehydes, ketones and N-substituted imines. In the case of the aldehydes the aldehyde group may be bound to an aliphatic, aromatic or heterocyclic radical, wherein the aliphatic radical may be linear, branched or cyclic. The radical  $R^1$  may here have one or more substituents, wherein these substituents should be substantially stable under the electrolytic conditions. Particularly preferred substituents are alkoxy groups and alkylmercapto groups. Where  $R^1$  is a cycloaliphatic radical, this may have one or more heteroatoms such as, in particular, oxygen and nitrogen. Preferred aliphatic aldehydes are those such as ~~have~~ having 2 to 12 C atoms, in particular 3 to 12 C atoms, wherein these may have one or two electrolytically stable substituents and the carbon chain also includes arylalkyl radicals. 3-methylmercaptopropionaldehyde (MMP) is particularly preferably carboxylated by the process according to the invention.